(b) to (d) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government.

Development of Jabalpur Airport

1404. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land was procured free of cost from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for development and expansion of the airport at Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details of development activities like terminal building, night landing facility, etc.; and

(c) if not, by when the same would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The runway has been extended from 4500 feet to 6500 feet at a cost of Rs.11.76 crores for operation of B/737 type of aircraft in fair weather conditions and work for new terminal building for 200 passengers and car park is nearing completion at an estimated cost of Rs.7.5 crores. At present, there is no Night Landing Facility at Jabalpur Airport and it would be planned further if required from traffic point of view or operational reasons.

Competition in AIR Fares

1405. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gulf Airlines and Emirates Airlines have joined hands to compete with the Indian Airlines in regard to air fares; and